

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 00038 071613Z

44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

IO-10 XMB-02 /092 W

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R 061800Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7141

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR PARA 4 LAST LINE)

E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD

SUBJ: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 282971; B) STATE 283948

1. INITIAL REACTION OF GOES TO PROSPECT OF A 7.9 MILLION POUND ANNUAL QUOTA WAS ONE OF DISMAY. THE GOES REPRESENTATIVE AT THE RECENT SCCN MEETING APPARENTLY HAD INFORMED AUTHORITIES HERE THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD IF QUOTAS WERE IMPOSED THEY WOULD BE IN THE NIEGHBORHOOD OF FOURTEEN MILLION POUNDS, A FIGURE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (MAG) AND THE INDUSTRY HAVE NOW SETTLED UPON AS A REASONABLE STARTING FIGURE FOR CONSULTATIONS.

2. THEY POINT OUT THAT THE THREE YEAR BASE PERIOD USED IN CALCULATING THE LEVEL OF RESTRAINT INCLUDES NEARLY ONE FULL YEAR IN WHICH EL SALVADOR WAS NOT YET ENTITLED TO SHIP TO THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE, THE CONTEND, TAKEN THEIR SHIPMENTS FOR TWO FISCAL YEARS AND DIVIDED THEM BY THREE TO ARRIVE AT AN  
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 00038 071613Z

AVERAGE. THEY FEEL THIS IS UNREASONABLE AND ASK THAT WE

CALCULATE THIR EITHER ON A BASIS OF JULY 1, 1972 TO JUNE 30, 1974,  
OR ON THE CALENDARY YEARS 1972, 1973, AND 1974.

3. THEY REALIZE THAT IF WE HAVE SETTLED ON A FINAL TOTAL  
FIGURE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA, ANY INCREASE FOR EL SALVADOR WILL  
HAVE TO COME FROM THE QUOTAS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES. IT WAS NOTED,  
HOWEVER, THAT DURING THE MEETINGS ON MEAT IN MEXICO, SEVERAL  
OF THE OTHER REPUBLICS AGREED THAT BECAUSE OF ITS SHORT EXPORT  
HISTORY, EL SALVADOR SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION.

4. PROBLEMS WITH PESTICIDE LEVELS IN MEAT SHIPPED TO THE US  
CAUSED THE TWO EXPORT PLANTS TO MAKE HEAVY INVESTMENT IN FEEDLOTS  
TO REDUCE THE RISK OF REJECTIONS AND TO ASSURE HEALTHY MEAT FOR  
THE US CONSUMER.

A QUOTA OF ONLY 7.9 MILLION POUNDS WOULD MAKE  
IT DIFFICULT FOR THE PLANTS TO RECOVER THEIR INVESTMENT IN A  
REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME. (THE TWO PLANTS EXPORTED 7.8 MILLION  
POUNDS TO THE U.S. IN THE (FIRST) FIVE MONTHS OF 1974.)

5. DELAYS IN THE SHIPMENT OF COTTON AND COFFEE LAST YEAR AND  
THE SHARPLY INCREASED BILL FOR PETROLEUM IMPORTS HAVE PLACED  
EL SALVADOR IN SEVERE ECONOMIC STRAITS. THE EARNINGS FROM BEEF  
EXPORTS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMY, AND TO REDUCE SUCH EXPORTS  
TO THIS LOW LEVEL WOULD BE ANOTHER BLOW TO AN ALREADY WEAK ECONOMY.

6. EMBASSY AGREES WITH MOST OF THE POINTS RAISED BY THE GOES.  
OUR ROUGH CALCULATIONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY SHOWN THAT THIS COUNTRY  
COULD EXPORT 10-12 MILLION POUNDS OF BEEF WITHOUT MINING THE  
NATIONAL HERD; TWENTY MILLION POUND LEVEL NOTED IN REF B APPEARS  
FAR TOO HIGH. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS PROMISED MORE  
EXACT CALCULATIONS AND A MORE DETAILED DEFENSE OF THEIR REQUEST  
FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE RESTRAINT LEVEL.  
MOSKOWITZ

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## Message Attributes

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